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FARTHING WOOD FRIENDS

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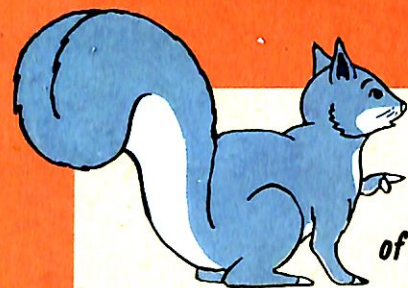


NATURE FUN AND LEARN SERIES

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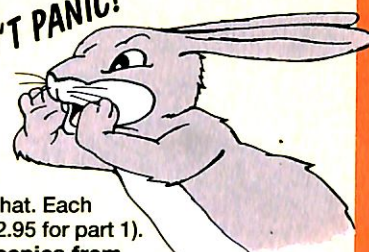
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CREDITS

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Key: AA = All About...; CII = Colour it in; DN = Discovering Nature;
FF = Fascinating Facts; HTD = How to Draw; PIO = Puzzle it Out;
SW = Secret World; TOFW = Tales of Farthing Wood.

28: All are welcome

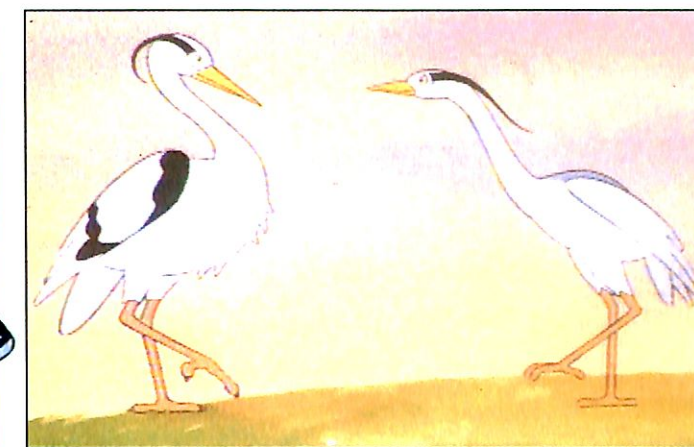


The animals of Farthing Wood had reached White Deer Park. Their long trek had brought them to the safety of this nature reserve. The White Stag and lots of the Park animals were there to greet them.

"News of your coming reached us a while ago. You are heroes. We the residents of White Deer Park welcome you." The animals cheered.



"The Park is yours, go where you please," continued the Stag. "As long as it's not on my patch," snarled a voice from the thicket.



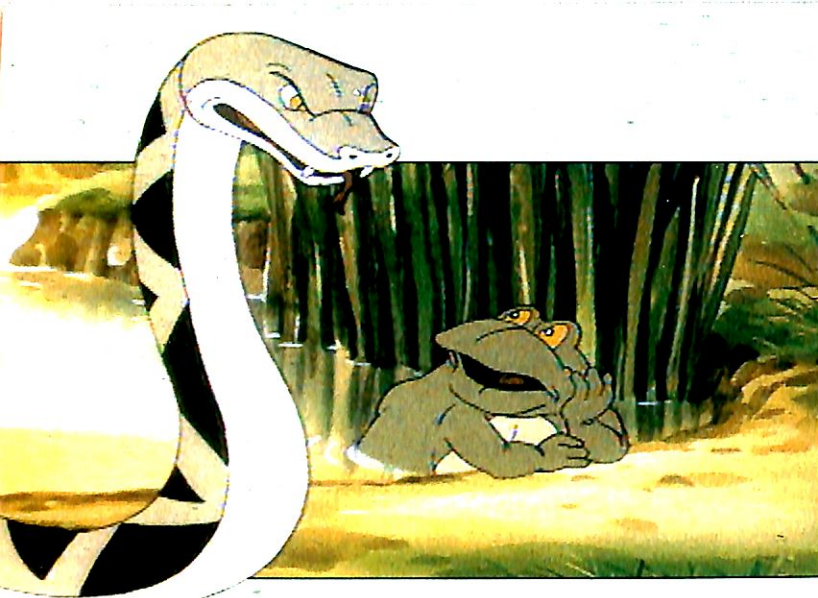
The animals were so excited they did not hear this warning. "I'm off to the pond," said Toad. "Pond, did you say? I'll show you the way," said a female heron standing nearby. Whistler looked round.



"My name is Speedy, no time to lose, come on now." The two herons flew off. Toad hopped along behind. "Wait for me, mateys!" he called. Speedy didn't stop talking.



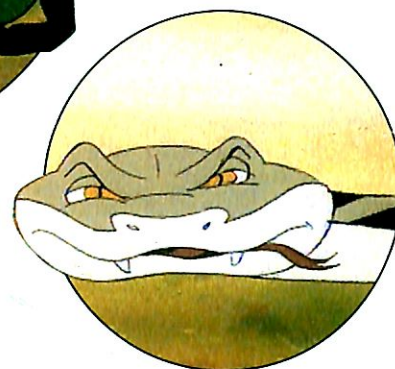
"With that hole in your wing you probably have difficulty fishing ... we have Edible frogs here ... with a bit of practice your technique will improve ... Oh!" Whistler presented her with a fish!



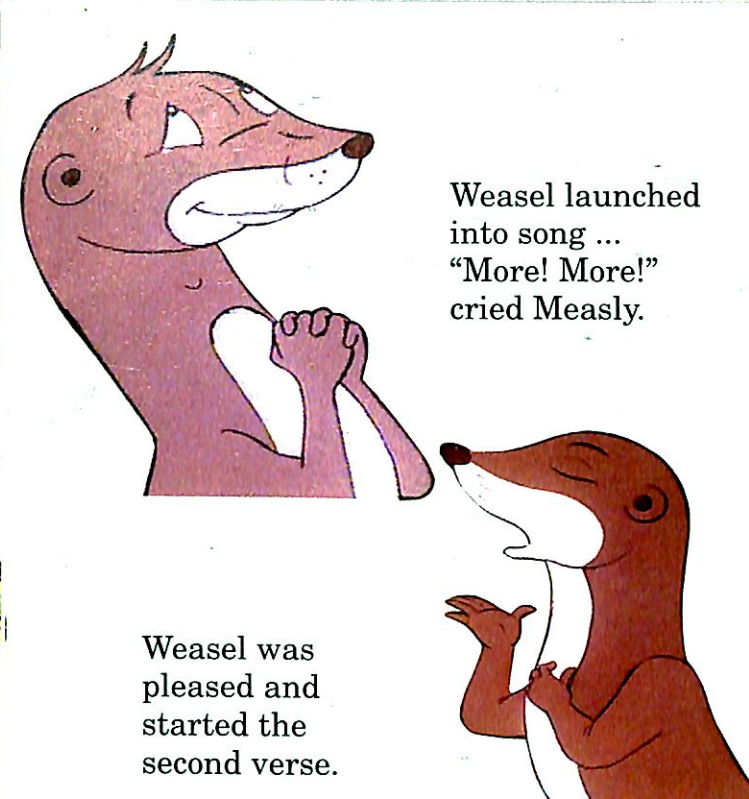
"Did sssomeone mention Edible frogs," hissed Adder, slithering up. "You can't eat them," cried Toad. "They're my relatives." "The Oath doesssn't apply here," said Adder. "I need to fatten up for my winter hibernation."



Adder lunged at a passing frog ...



... and missed. "I'm out of practissse," she sighed.

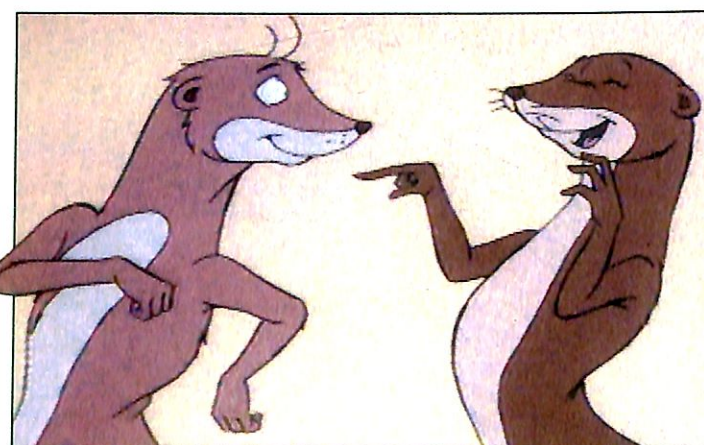


Weasel launched into song ... "More! More!" cried Measly.

Weasel was pleased and started the second verse.



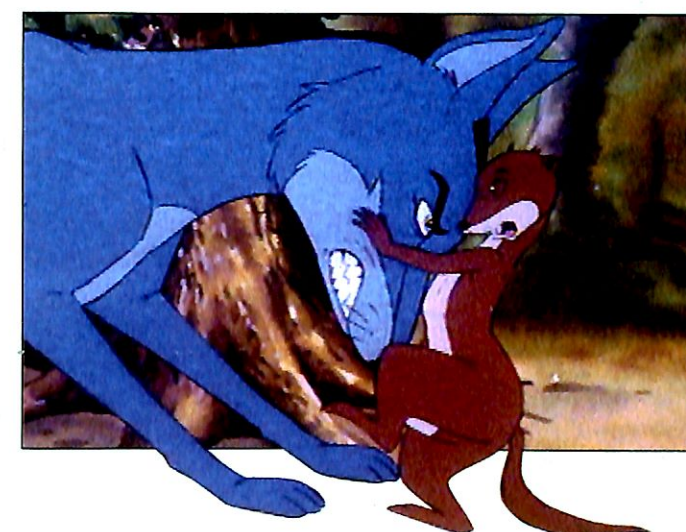
Just then Measly caught sight of something over Weasel's shoulder. He turned and ran.



Back at the group, Weasel was being eyed by another Weasel. "I'm Measly! Oh! You're gorgeous," he cried, running over to hug her.



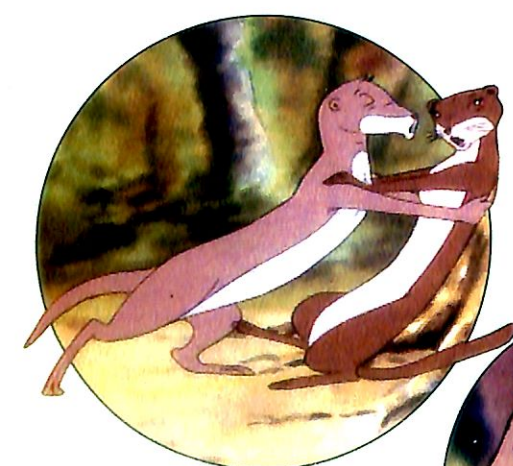
Weasel stepped aside and Measly ran straight into Owl, knocking her over. "Get off me," cried Owl. Measly got up and spat out a mouthful of feathers.



"So much for wanting more," said Weasel. She turned round and walked into ... Scarface!



"You're one of that Farthing Wood lot," he snarled. "No, I'm not," squeaked Weasel. "They're nothing to do with me!"



"You won't catch meeee," screamed Weasel. They dashed through the forest.



"Nice to be wanted," said Owl as Measly caught Weasel and tried to kiss her.



"No it's not! Especially by this measly specimen. Get off!" cried Weasel. "Why don't you sing to him," suggested Owl, wickedly, covering her ears with her wings.



"You can't fool me," he growled. "No Farthing Wood creature is welcome on my land."



There was a rustle in the bushes where Measly was hiding. Scarface looked round and Weasel saw her chance to escape. "I've got to get back to the others," she thought.

Next week: Friends or enemies?

All About...

Red Admirals

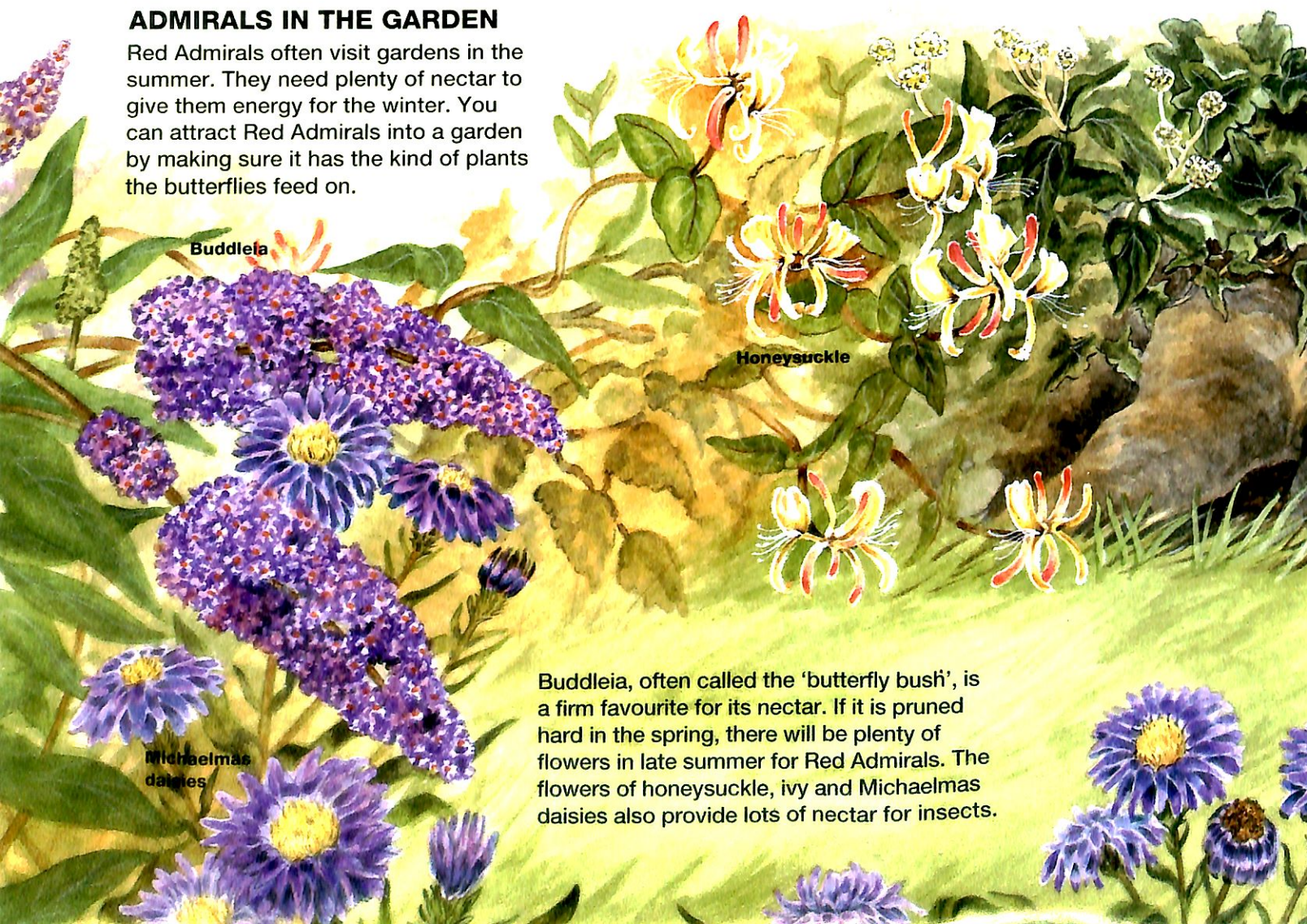


“Hi there! I’m Red Admiral, a summer visitor to Farthing Wood. Although I may look rather fragile and delicate as I flit around the countryside, I make a marathon journey from southern Europe to get here. Like all other butterflies, we Red Admirals have four life stages: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis and, finally, butterfly.

Red Admirals belong to the nymphalid family of butterflies. Like the other 16 nymphalids in the British Isles, we only use two pairs of legs for walking — our front pair are shorter than the others and are kept folded against our bodies. Our caterpillars are protected by sharp spines.”

ADMIRALS IN THE GARDEN

Red Admirals often visit gardens in the summer. They need plenty of nectar to give them energy for the winter. You can attract Red Admirals into a garden by making sure it has the kind of plants the butterflies feed on.

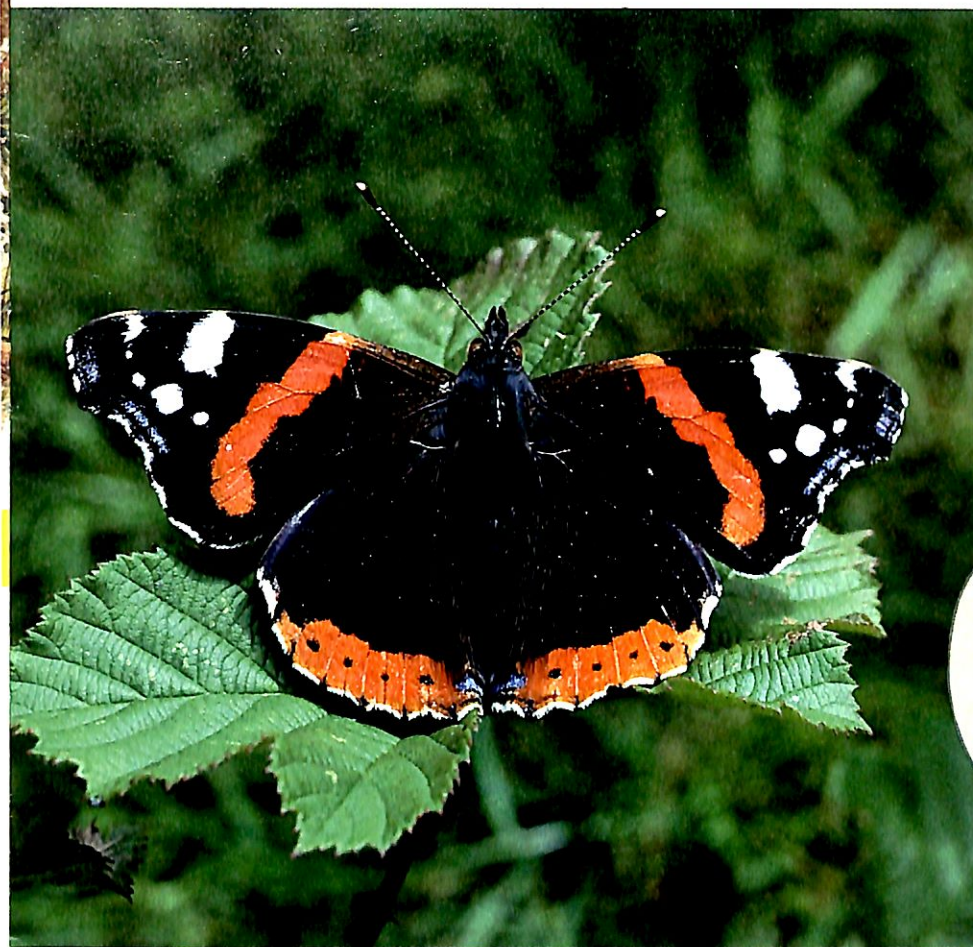


Buddleia

Honeysuckle

Michaelmas daisies

Buddleia, often called the ‘butterfly bush’, is a firm favourite for its nectar. If it is pruned hard in the spring, there will be plenty of flowers in late summer for Red Admirals. The flowers of honeysuckle, ivy and Michaelmas daisies also provide lots of nectar for insects.

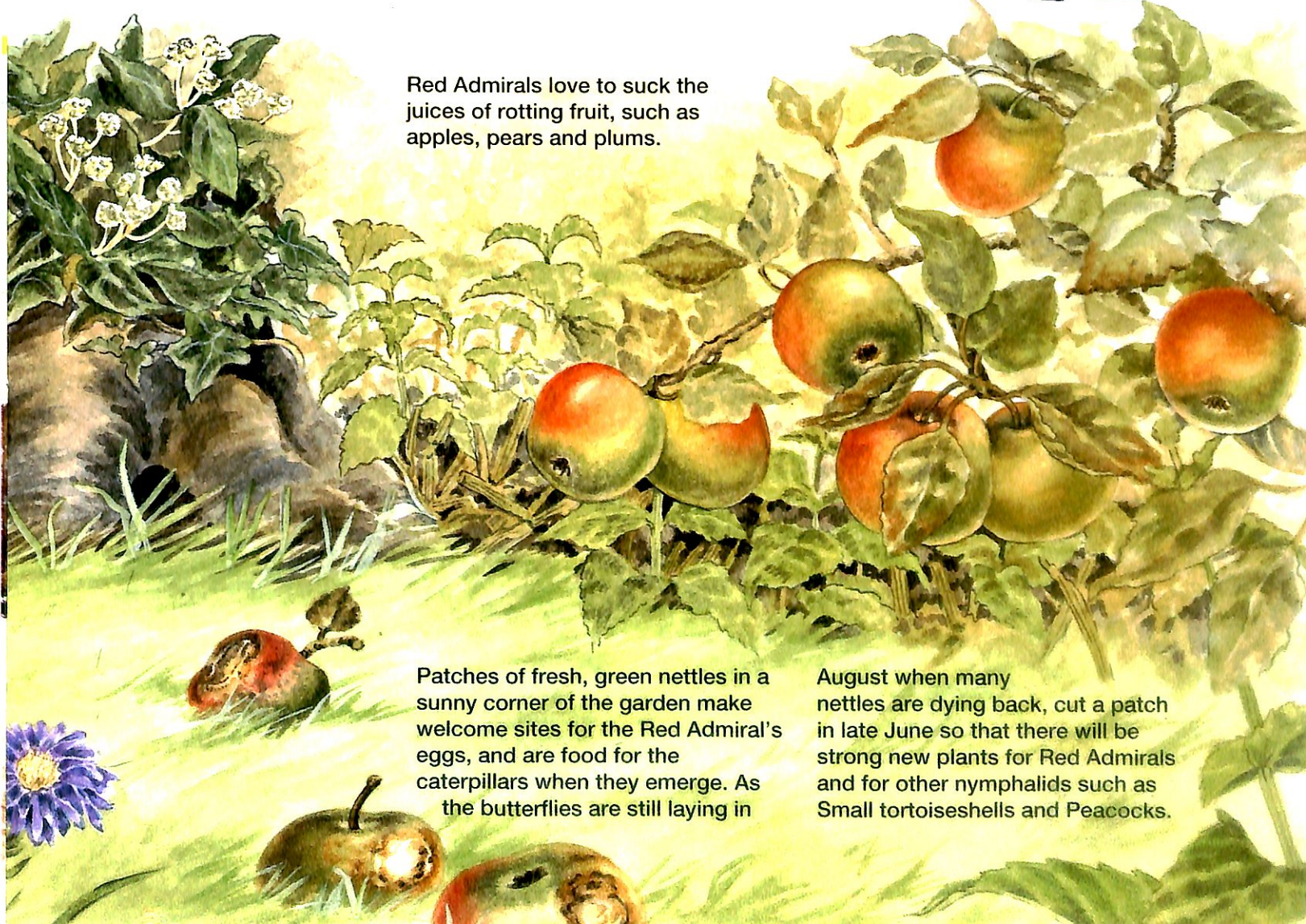


Even though I’m only 56mm from wingtip to wingtip, I’m easy to spot when my wings are fully open. My fore wings are glossy black with white splodges in the top corners and a bold, bright red stripe below them. My hind wings are edged with a broad band of orangey-red with black dots. But the rest of my wings are much more mottled. My two antennae help me to smell and I have a feeding tube, called a proboscis, which I keep coiled up when I’m not feeding.

Squirrel says
Get an adult to help you when you’re pruning or cutting plants. Don’t forget that nettles sting.



Red Admirals love to suck the juices of rotting fruit, such as apples, pears and plums.



Patches of fresh, green nettles in a sunny corner of the garden make welcome sites for the Red Admiral’s eggs, and are food for the caterpillars when they emerge. As the butterflies are still laying in

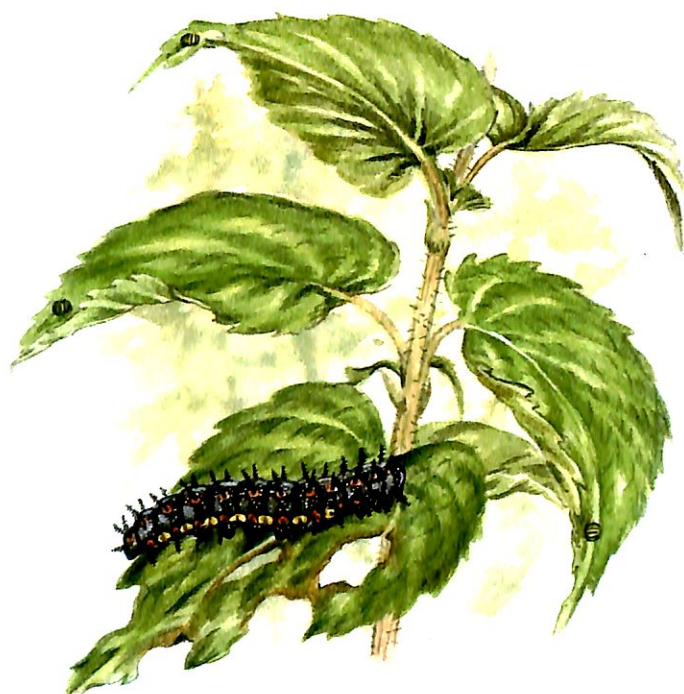
August when many nettles are dying back, cut a patch in late June so that there will be strong new plants for Red Admirals and for other nymphalids such as Small tortoiseshells and Peacocks.

All About...

Becoming a butterfly

“As soon as the first Red Admirals arrive in Britain, usually about May, they mate. Then the females flutter in and out of plants, looking for a suitable place to lay their eggs. They mainly choose stinging nettles.”

▼ Each female lays her small, green eggs one by one. She places it on the top side of a leaf at the tip of a nettle stalk. After about a week, a tiny caterpillar crawls out. It is usually black, with yellow or white markings along its sides, and covered in bristly hairs. It makes itself a tent out of a leaf, fastening the sides together with its silk, and feeds on the leaf in its sheltered hideaway.



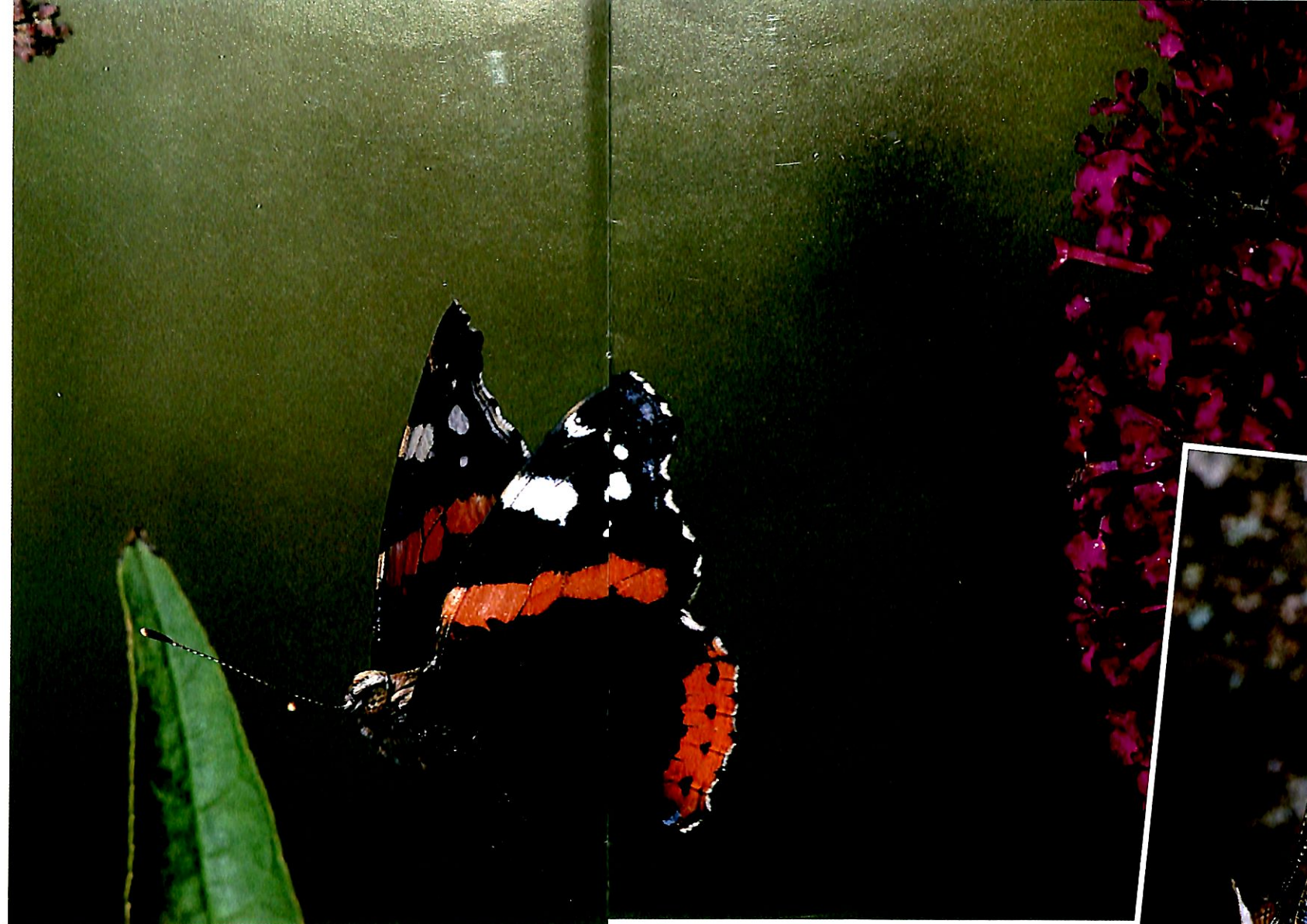
► For about four weeks, the caterpillar makes itself several tents as it rapidly grows bigger and fatter. At the end of this time it chews into the stem, about 15cm from the top, and makes its final tent. It spins the leaves, which are now drooping downwards, into a cocoon. Sometimes it makes its chrysalis inside this, or chooses some other large leaves as shelter.



Be a Nature Detective

CHRYSALIS SPOTTING

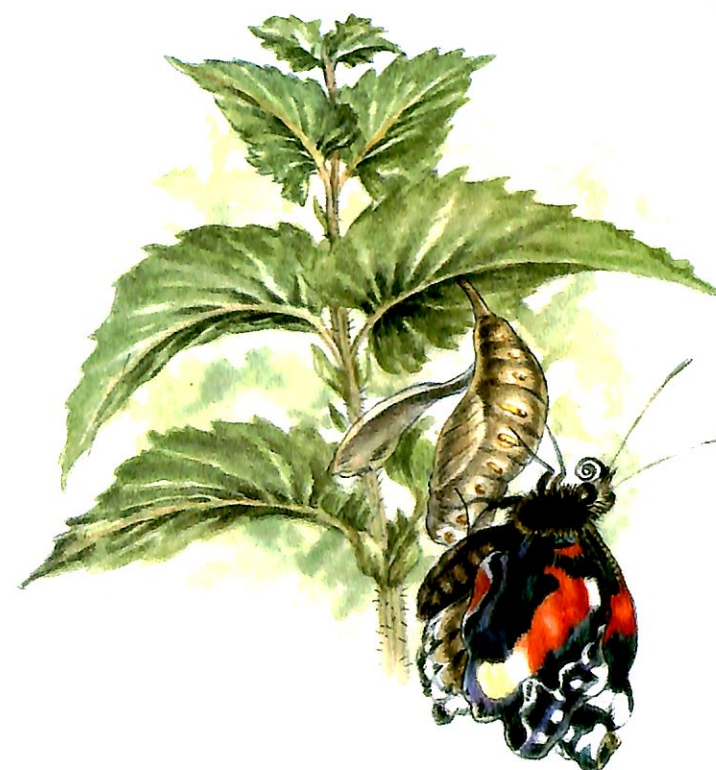
If you see a nettle leaf shaped like a packet, there's probably a fat Red Admiral caterpillar curled up inside, chomping away.



This Red admiral has not closed its wings fully, yet. When it does, its dull underwings camouflage it very well.



▲ To make the chrysalis, the butterfly spins a pad of silk on to the stem, clamps its hind claspers on to this and hangs downwards. As it wriggles, it splits its outer skin and gradually its chrysalis skin hardens to a reddish-brown speckled with gold. Over the next two weeks huge changes take place inside the chrysalis.



◀ In August, Red Admirals start to fly south. A few manage to hibernate in Britain, some die, but many of them fly to southern Europe for the winter.

Naturalists are not sure exactly how they find their way to their winter quarters. They think that they navigate by the position of the sun. In spring they fly north again.



IT'S
Amazing!

LONG DISTANCE FLYERS

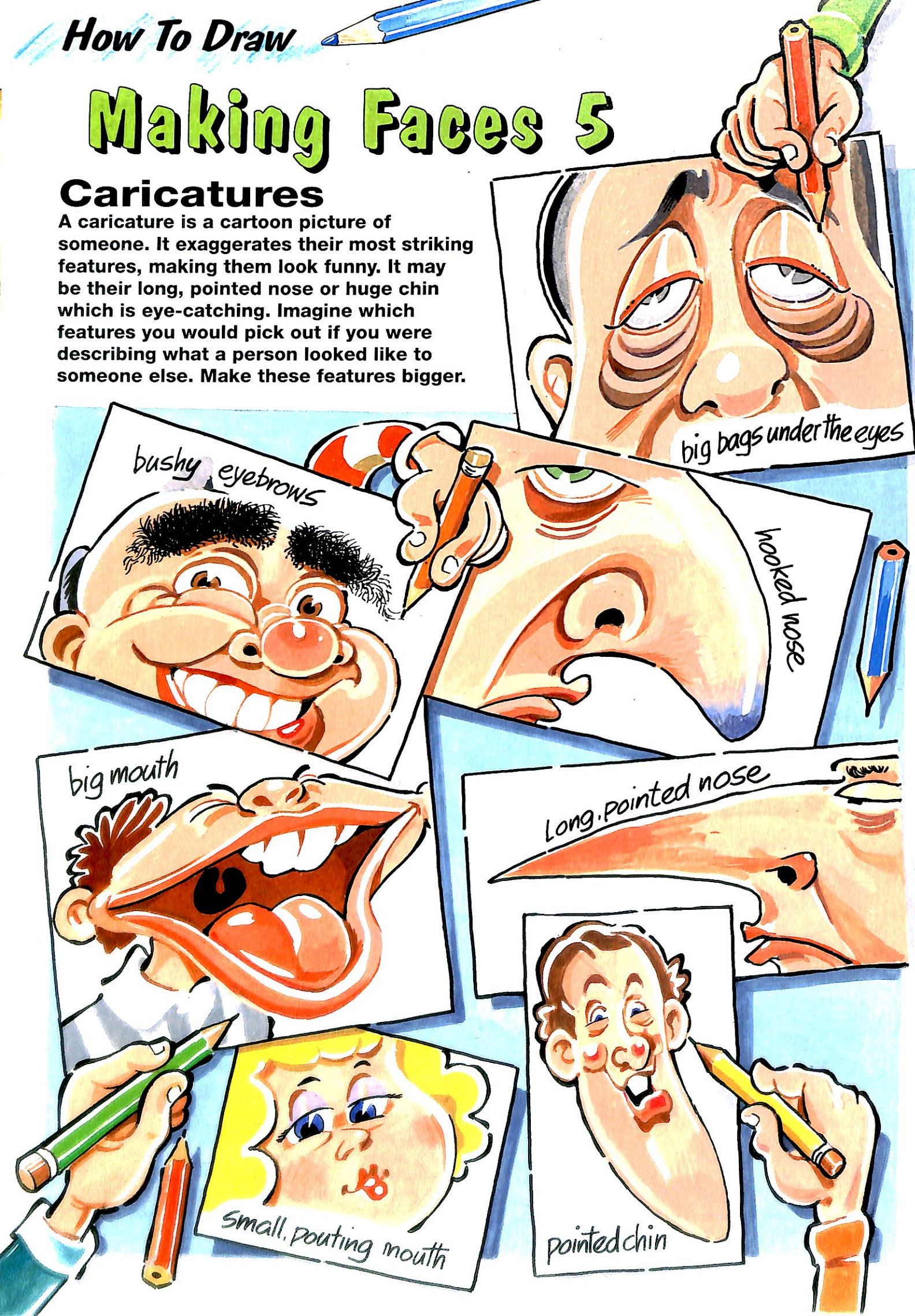
Although Red Admirals are tiny and light, their wings are powerful enough to fly them thousands of miles to Britain and Ireland. Occasionally, some even reach Lapland.

◀ When the butterfly emerges from the chrysalis, its body and wings are soft. It hangs downwards while the veins in its wings fill with blood and expand the wings to their full size. This takes up to 20 minutes. Then it waits until its body has hardened and reached a temperature of at least 30°C before it can fly off to find its first meal.

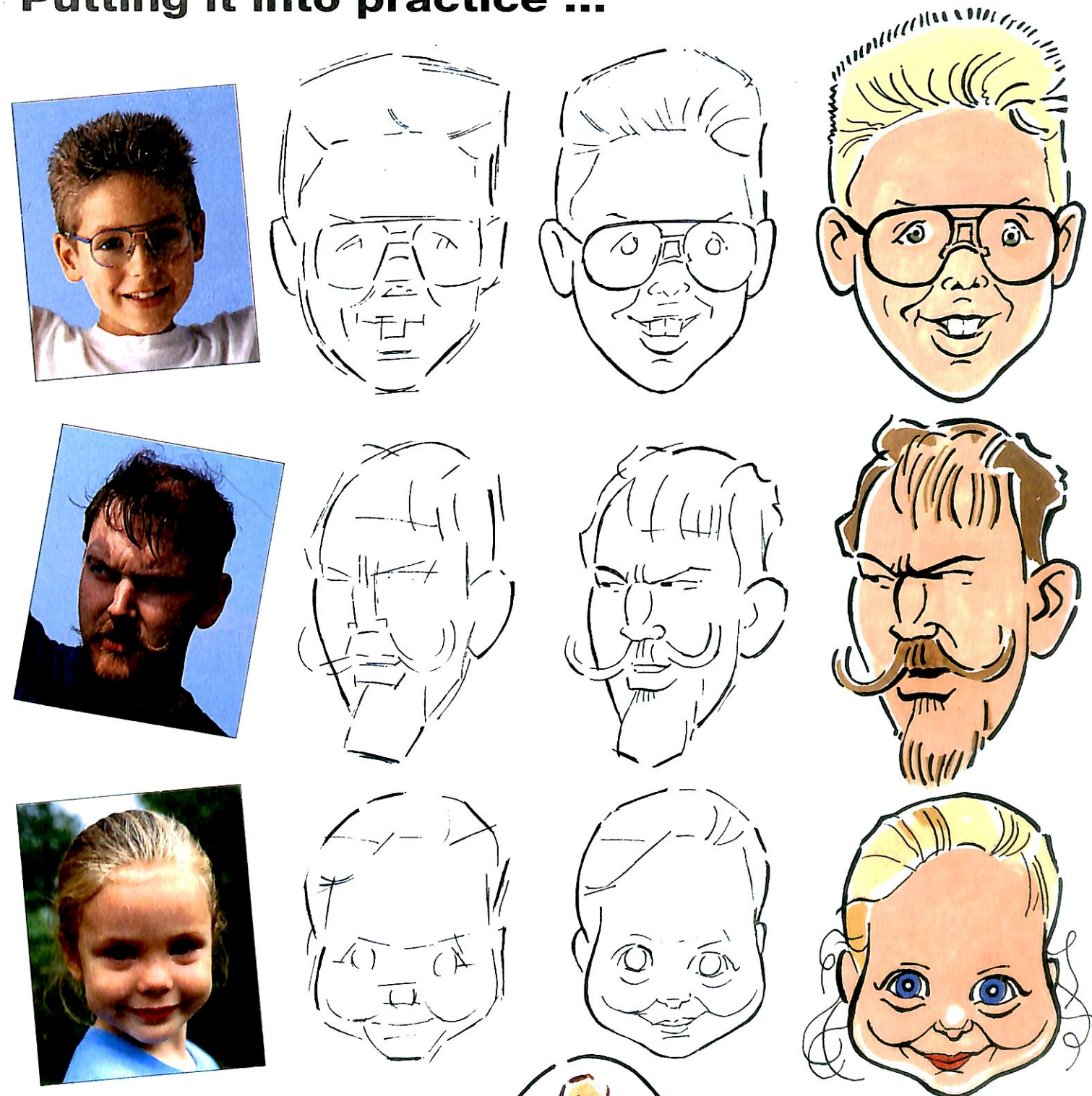
Making Faces 5

Caricatures

A caricature is a cartoon picture of someone. It exaggerates their most striking features, making them look funny. It may be their long, pointed nose or huge chin which is eye-catching. Imagine which features you would pick out if you were describing what a person looked like to someone else. Make these features bigger.

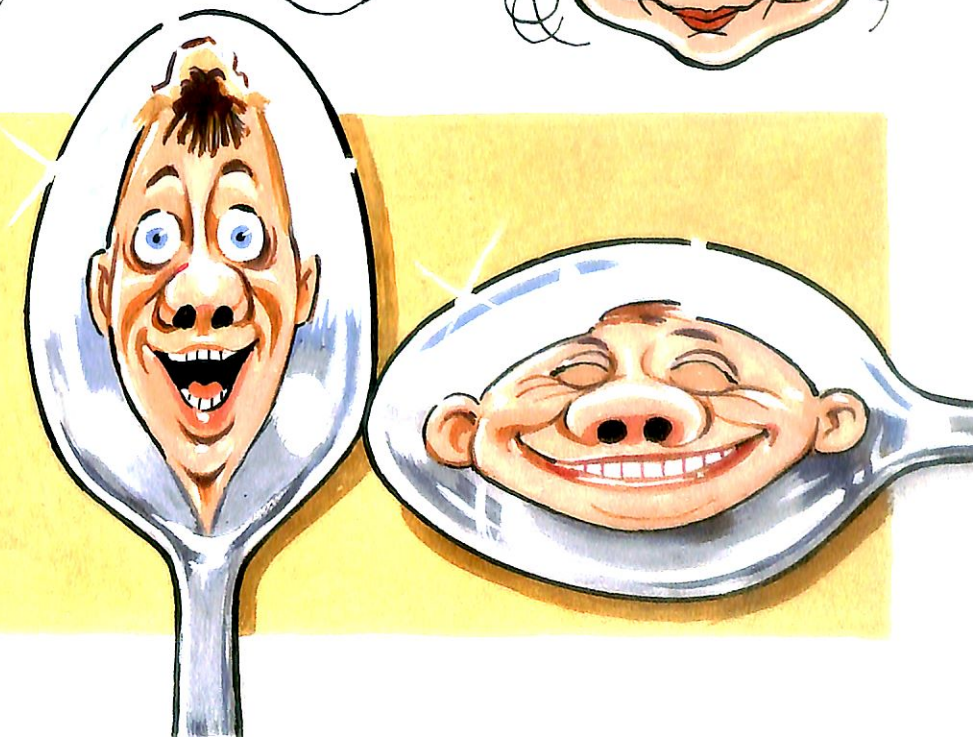


Putting it into practice ...

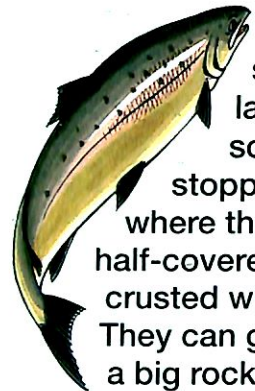


Do-it-yourself

You can draw a funny caricature of yourself by looking at your reflection in the back of a shiny spoon. The curve of the spoon distorts the features of your face. Try looking at your face both sideways and lengthways in the spoon for different effects.

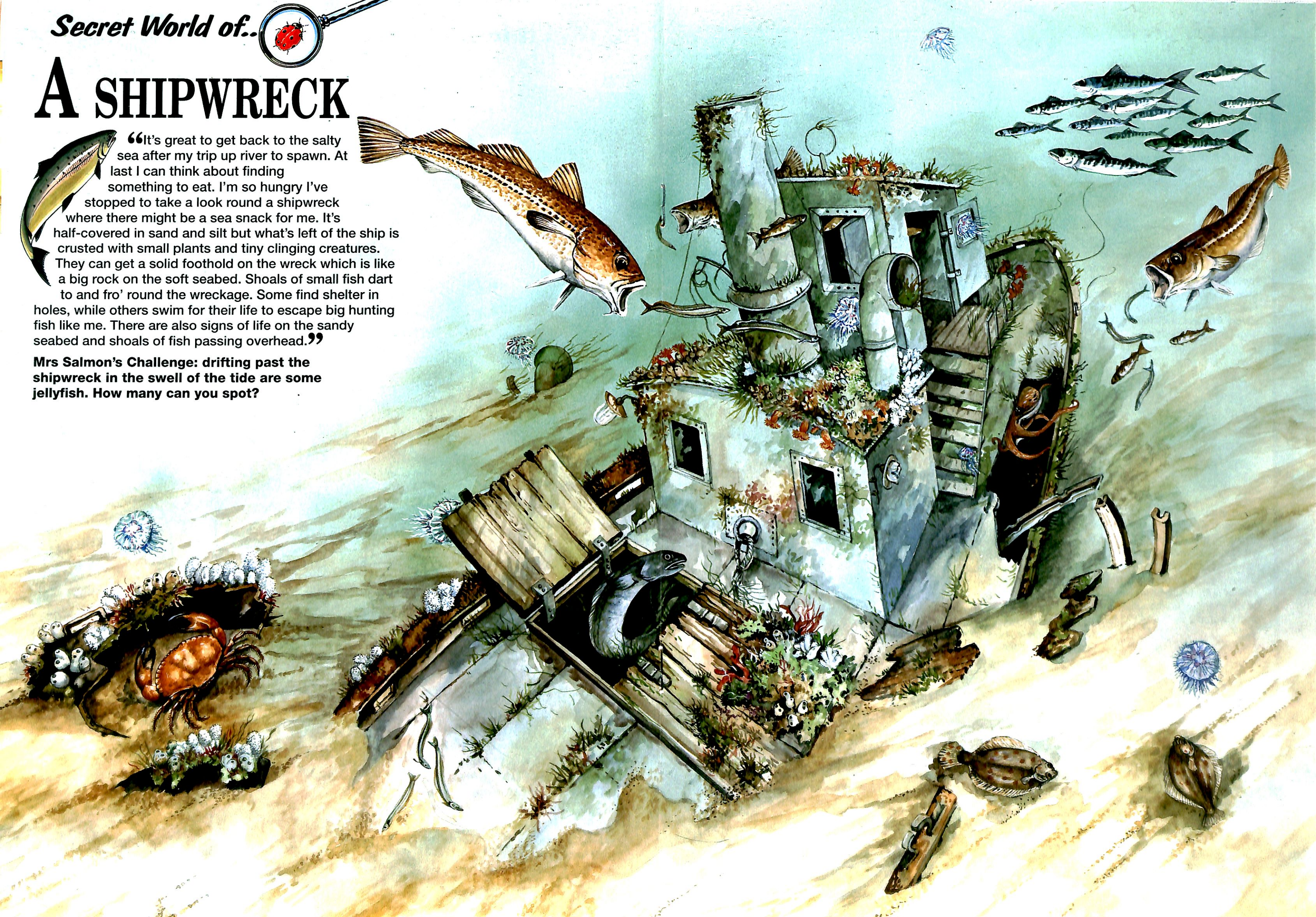


A SHIPWRECK



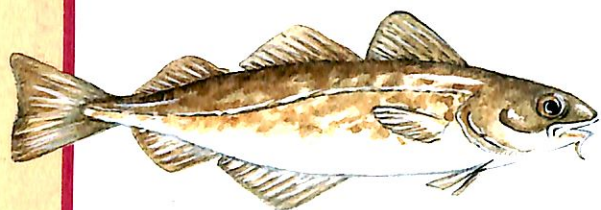
“It’s great to get back to the salty sea after my trip up river to spawn. At last I can think about finding something to eat. I’m so hungry I’ve stopped to take a look round a shipwreck where there might be a sea snack for me. It’s half-covered in sand and silt but what’s left of the ship is crusted with small plants and tiny clinging creatures. They can get a solid foothold on the wreck which is like a big rock on the soft seabed. Shoals of small fish dart to and fro’ round the wreckage. Some find shelter in holes, while others swim for their life to escape big hunting fish like me. There are also signs of life on the sandy seabed and shoals of fish passing overhead.”

Mrs Salmon’s Challenge: drifting past the shipwreck in the swell of the tide are some jellyfish. How many can you spot?





A group of jellyfish is called a smuck. I hope you didn't get stuck finding a smuck of eight jellies floating past the shipwreck.



Cod is usually seen wrapped in paper with chips! Its normal home, though, is in the sea. Wherever there's a wreck there are always a few Cod – they chase after small, silvery fish and suck them up in their huge, gaping mouth.



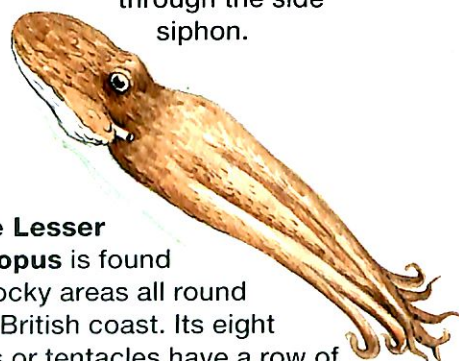
Dead man's fingers is a soft coral which sometimes grows on the surface of wrecks. The coral is orange when it is resting but when it is feeding it's covered in a coat of fluffy white branches which filter tiny animals out of the water.



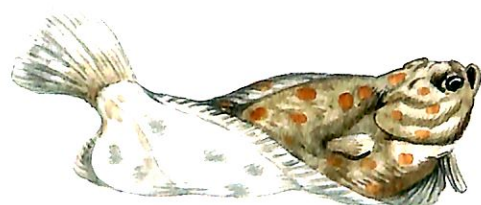
Plumose anemones look like small, underwater palm trees. The stalk, which can be up to 30cm tall, ends in a feathery crown of tentacles. You can find them in rock crevices, on pier columns and on wrecks.



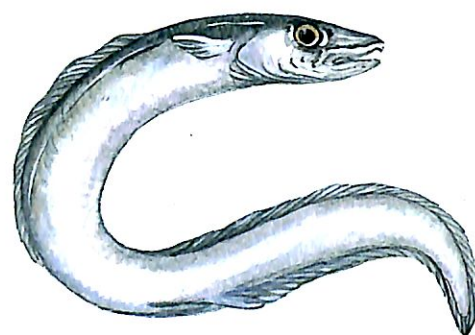
Sea squirts come in all shapes, sizes and colours but they are all like bags of jelly with two doors. They suck in water through a hole (siphon) at the top, filter out the food, then pump the water out through the side siphon.



The Lesser octopus is found in rocky areas all round the British coast. Its eight legs or tentacles have a row of suckers underneath. These help it move over the seabed and catch its prey. When in danger the octopus squirts water out of a tube at the bottom of its body and jets off quickly. Sometimes it confuses prey by releasing a cloud of ink. Hungry Conger eels follow the smell of the ink instead of the octopus.



Plaice are well camouflaged when they lie flat on sand on the seabed. The top of a plaice is brown and dotted with bright red or orange spots. But when it moves to feed on worms or shellfish it flashes a white belly.



Conger eels are long, muscular fish which look like big snakes. They're at home in dark nooks, crannies and portholes which make super places for them to ambush their prey. A Conger lies in wait with just its head poking out of the hole. When its prey comes near, the eel attacks and grabs it in its powerful jaws.



Mackerel are sleek fish, designed for high speed swimming. They can flatten their fins against their body to gain extra speed when chasing their prey. Look for their blue-green stripes and silver underside.



The Edible crab has a brownish pink shell, eight hairy legs and large pincers with black tips. When it's not scavenging or searching for shellfish, it seeks shelter in a rocky hole or under the timbers and debris of a wreck.

EXPLORING THE SEA



Behold the wonders of the mighty deep,
Where crabs and lobsters learn to creep,
And little fishes learn to swim,
And clumsy sailors tumble in.

SEAWEED SAMPLERS

There are at least 800 types of seaweed growing in British waters! As well as providing food and shelter for sea creatures, seaweeds are eaten by animals, used for fertilizers and to make medicines. Next time you walk along the seashore try and find a few, small pieces of seaweed to take home.

SIX COMMON SEAWEEDS:

Sea lettuce



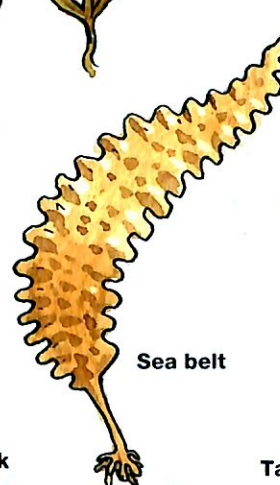
Bladder wrack



Spiral wrack



Knotted wrack



Sea belt



Tangle (oarweed)

SEAWEED ALBUM

In Victorian times 'seaweeding' (collecting different seaweeds in an album) was popular. Have a go at making your own seaweed album.

1 Wash a piece of seaweed thoroughly in cold water. Place a piece of cartridge paper in a washing-up bowl half full of water. Put the seaweed on top of the paper. Use a pencil to arrange the fronds on the paper.



2 Gently lift the paper and seaweed out of the water. Put a piece of kitchen paper over the seaweed. Lay the 'sandwich' between two sheets of newspaper and put it in a warm place to dry out.



When dry, stick your seaweed in an album. Below it write the name of the seaweed and where and when you found it.



IN A FLASH

The Flashlight fish has two light organs below its eyes which it uses to find its way in the dark and to confuse enemies. When it sees a predator, it turns off the light and rushes off in the opposite direction to escape!



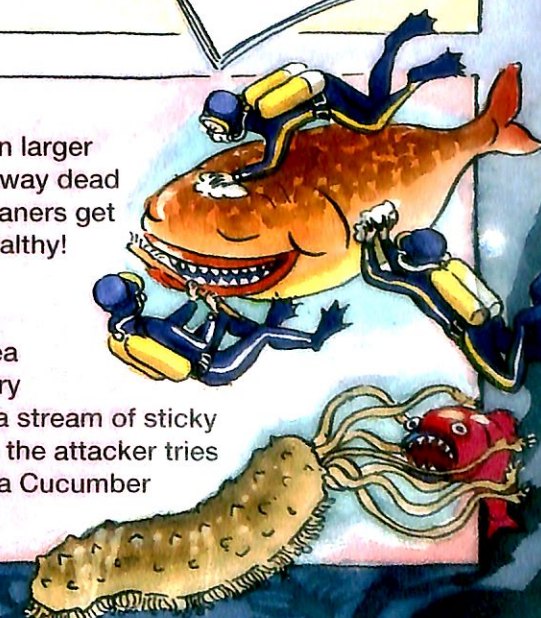
UNDERWATER CHARS

Tiny Cleaner fish run regular 'MOTs' on larger fish. They clean off pests and nibble away dead skin from the gills and mouth. The Cleaners get a free meal and the large fish stays healthy!



STICKY BUSINESS

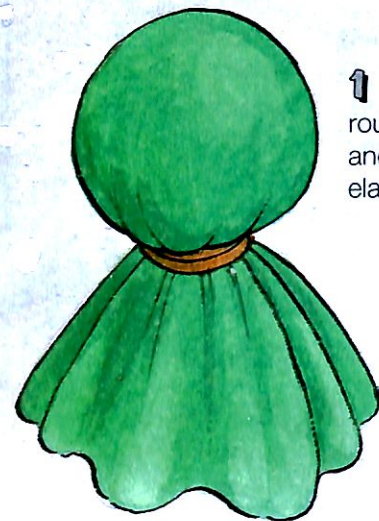
The harmless-looking Sea Cucumber puts off hungry predators by letting out a stream of sticky tubes from its gut. While the attacker tries to untangle itself, the Sea Cucumber makes its getaway!



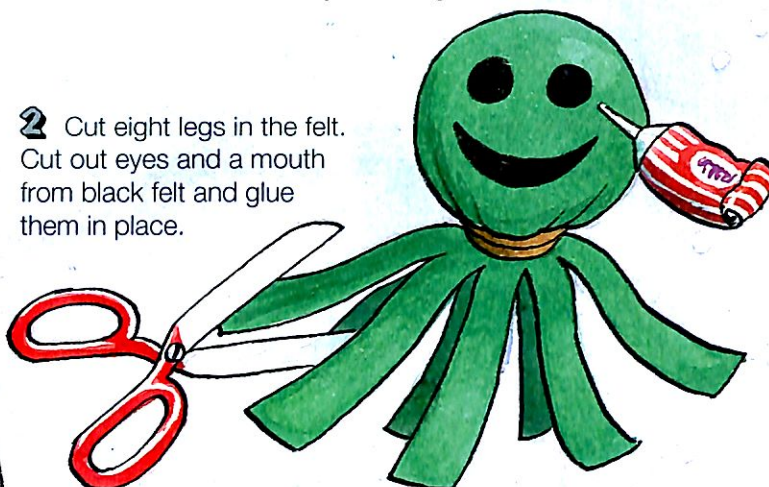


OLLY OCTOPUS

You will need: circle of green felt the size of a dinner plate, small piece of black felt, old tennis ball, elastic band, scissors, 1.4m shirring elastic, needle and thread, two lolly sticks, glue.



1 Wrap green felt round a tennis ball and secure it with an elastic band.

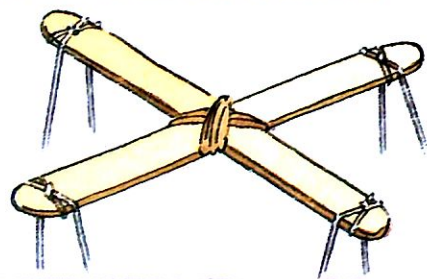


2 Cut eight legs in the felt. Cut out eyes and a mouth from black felt and glue them in place.

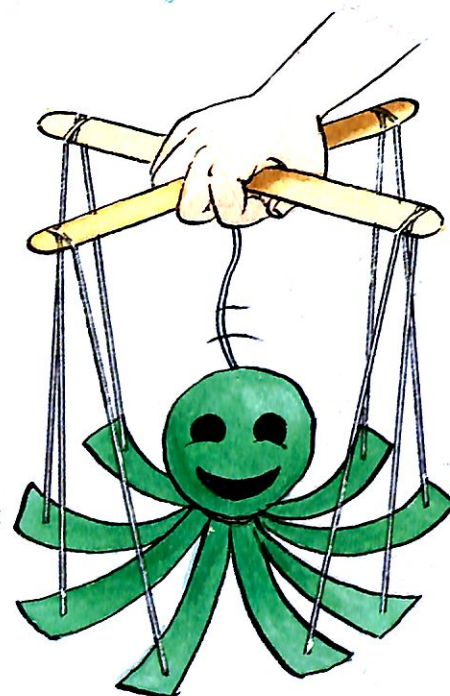
3 Cut nine lengths of shirring elastic, each 15cm long. Knot the end of each piece of elastic and thread one through the end of each leg.



4 Glue or tie two lolly sticks together to make a cross. Tie the shirring elastic of two legs together and glue them to each end of the lolly sticks. Stick the elastic from Olly's head to the middle of the sticks.



Now wiggle the lolly sticks about and watch Olly dance!



GOLDFISH CAKE

Make this cake for a party or for Sunday afternoon tea.

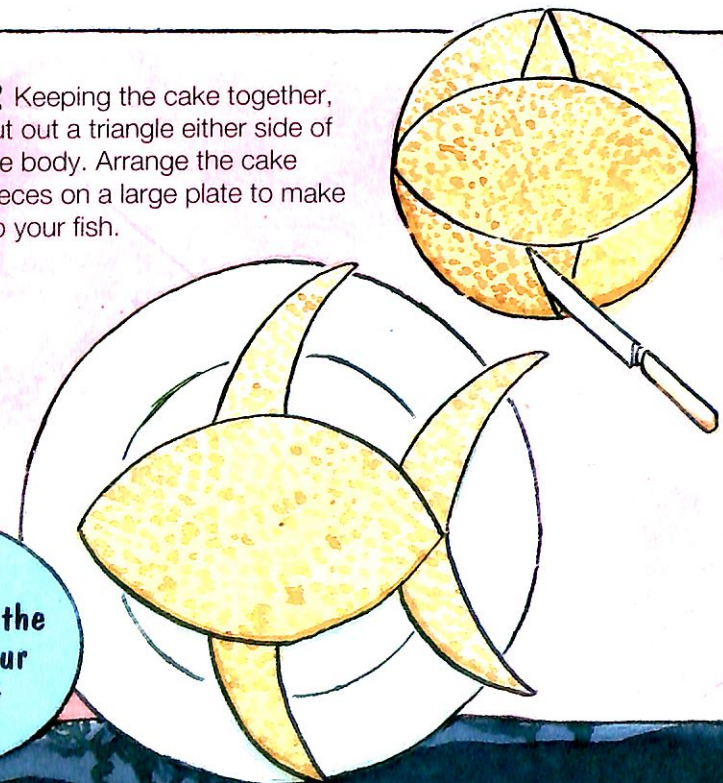
You will need:

1 round sponge cake, knife, 150g icing sugar, 75g butter, orange, grater, bowl, glace cherry, orange and lemon jelly cake decorations, angelica, orange food colouring.

1 Cut two curves in the cake, as shown. You might find it helpful to cut round the edge of a plate for a smooth line.



2 Keeping the cake together, cut out a triangle either side of the body. Arrange the cake pieces on a large plate to make up your fish.



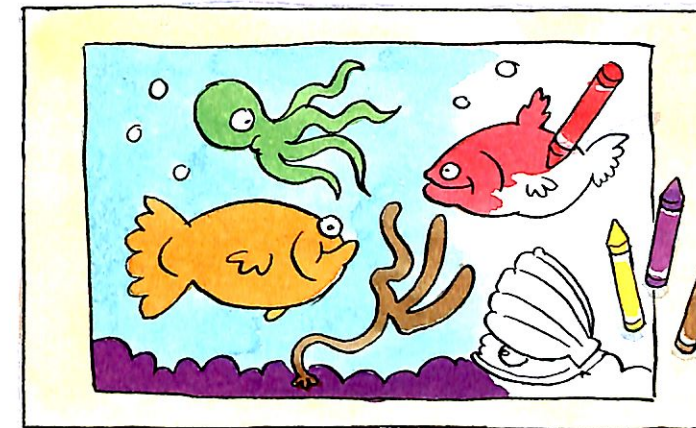
Squirrel says
Put the sponge in the freezer for an hour first to make it easier to cut.



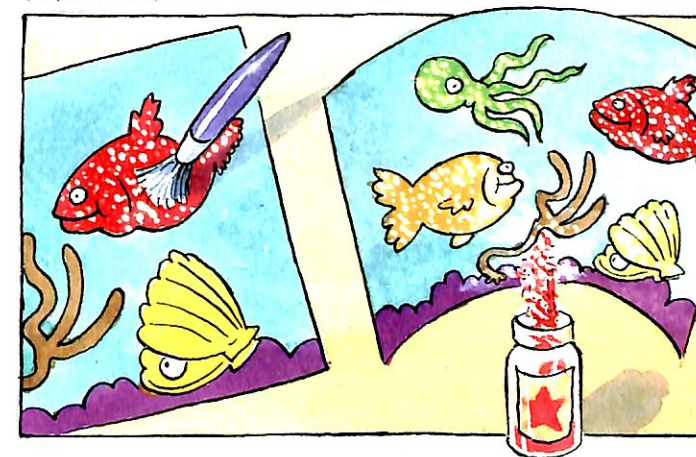
UNDERWATER SCENE

Make a glittery picture to brighten up your bedroom wall.

1 Cover your work surface with a few sheets of newspaper. On a sheet of card, sketch out your design in pencil. Go over the lines carefully with a black felt tip. Colour it in.



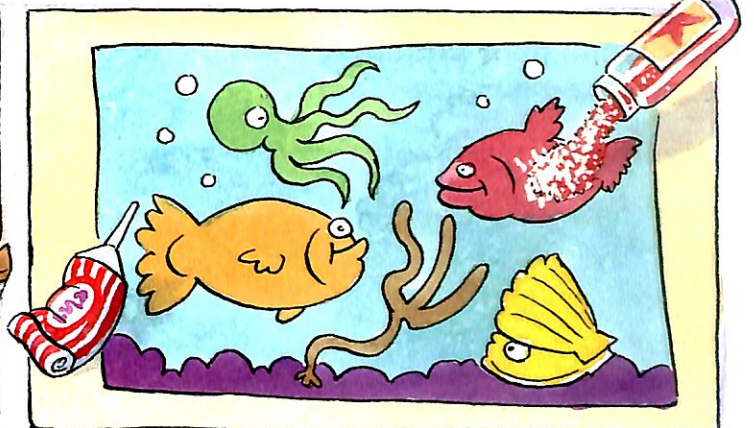
3 Gently use a paintbrush to remove any loose grains. Sweep the glitter to the edge of the paper and pour it back into its jar.



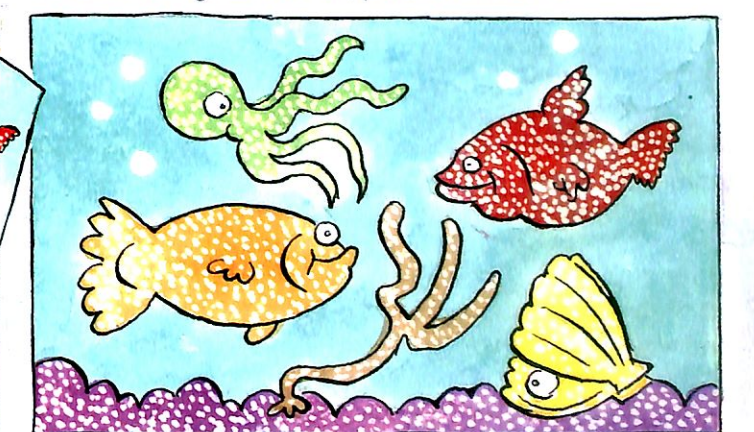
You will need:

thin card, pencil, black felt tip, glue, crayons, different colours of glitter, paintbrush, newspaper.

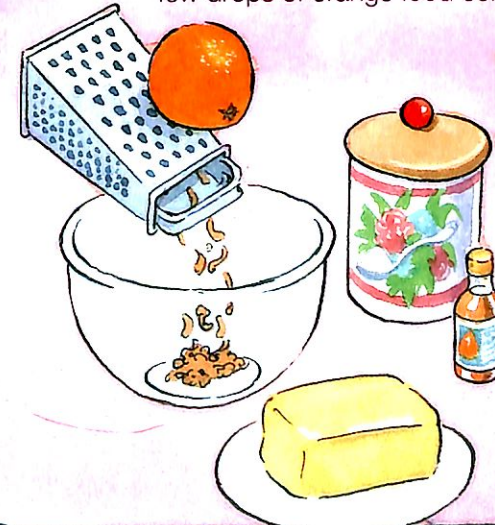
2 Smear glue on to one coloured section of the picture. Make sure it reaches right to the edges of the design. Sprinkle glitter over the glue and leave it to dry for a few minutes.



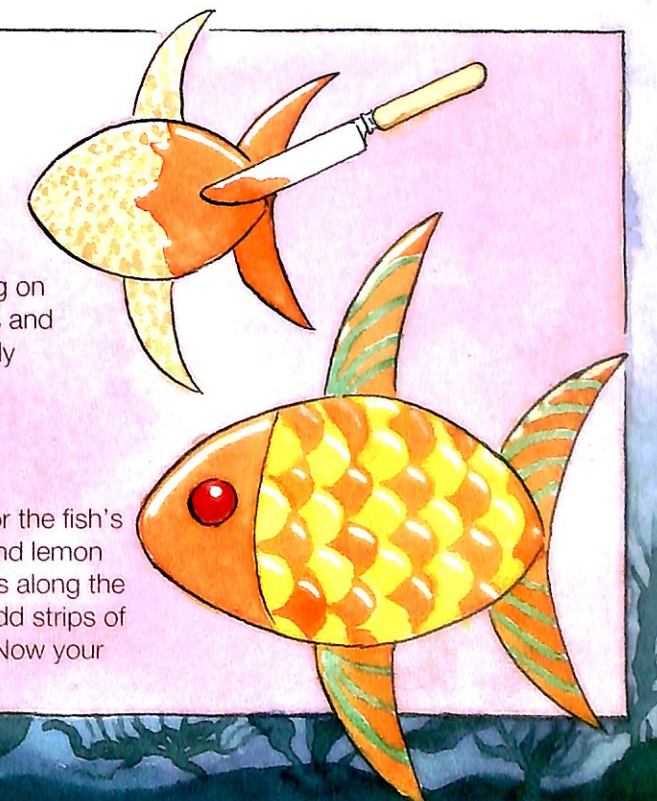
4 Carry on filling in the different coloured sections with glitter until the picture is finished.



3 Measure the icing sugar and butter into a bowl. Mix them together until smooth. Carefully grate the outer skin (the zest) of an orange into the butter icing. Add a few drops of orange food colouring. Mix well.



4 Spoon the icing on to the fish and fins and spread it out evenly with a knife.



5 Add a glace cherry for the fish's eye. Press the orange and lemon cake decorations in rows along the fish's back for scales. Add strips of angelica along the fins. Now your fish is ready to eat!

HORNS

Many animals are crowned with a spiky head of horn, tusk or antler. They use them to attack, defend and show who is boss. Antelope horns are made out of the same stuff as finger nails or hooves. Rhino horns are actually dense matted hair while deer antlers are bone and tusks are overgrown teeth.



◀ **LONG PRONGS**
Ankole or Watussi cattle from Uganda have very long horns. You might expect the bull to have the biggest pair but it has quite short horns. It's the cow's horns that can grow up to 1.5m long.

▼ **SHORN HORN**
The African White and Black rhinos have two horns while some Asian rhinos have only one. This Indian one-horned rhino has none at all. It has been sawn off to protect it from poachers. It's the horn the poachers are after so without one the animal is less likely to be killed.



◀ **CORKSCREW SET**
A male Markhor shows off a fine pair of twisted horns. Markhors are the largest of the wild goats. They live in very high mountains in Afghanistan and the western Himalayas.

IT'S Amazing!
TUSK HELMET
This Babirusa is not just a pretty face! Instead of one pair of tusks it has two pairs. The bottom set grows from the side of its jaw and is used for attacking. The top pair grow through the top of its nose and curve back over its head. They cross over in an X-shape to act as a sort of face shield.



▼ **BATTLING BIGHORNS**
Bighorn rams settle arguments by charging at each other and crashing horns together with frightening power. Extra thick shock-absorbing skulls take the sting out of the clashes so they aren't badly hurt. Even so, they probably get an almighty headache after a tough duel.



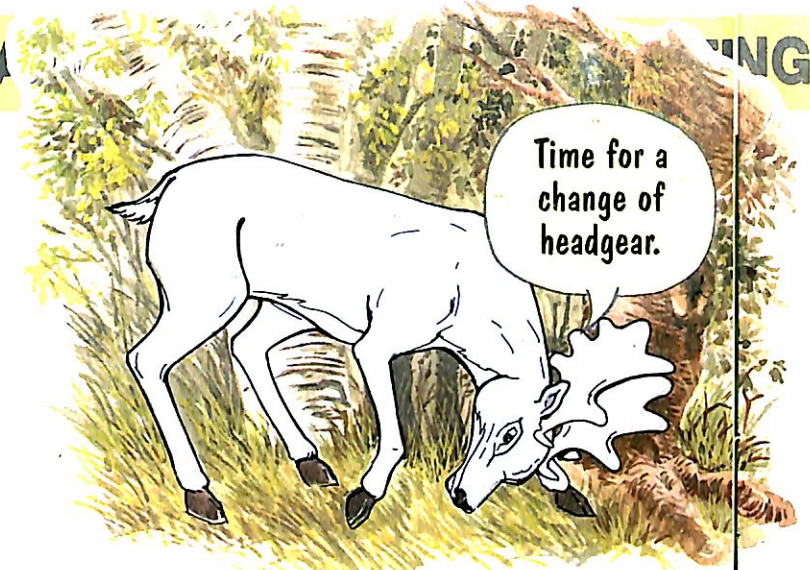
Why do cows have bells?
Because their horns don't work.



▶ **EXPRESS BONGO**
When the Bongo runs through the dense forests of Africa it thrusts its horns flat against its back. This peculiar pose prevents the horns tangling up in trees and bushes. Sometimes the horns rub to leave bare patches on the animal's skin.



▲ **SPIKED HEAD**
Some lizards have horns, too – in this case three. The Horned chameleon's prongs play a part in trying to impress a female. They may sometimes be used as weapons but they're mainly for showing off.



◀ **ANTLER DISMANTLER**
When White Stag's antlers are fully grown he rubs off their velvet covering and then they harden. After the breeding season, his antlers drop off. He then grows a new pair for the next season.



◀ **LAST STAND**
When attacked by hungry wolves, a herd of hairy Musk oxen forms a circle of defence and turns to face the attackers. The ring of horns is difficult for the wolves to break through without getting hurt.

Q : What mythical horse had one horn?
A : The Unicorn.

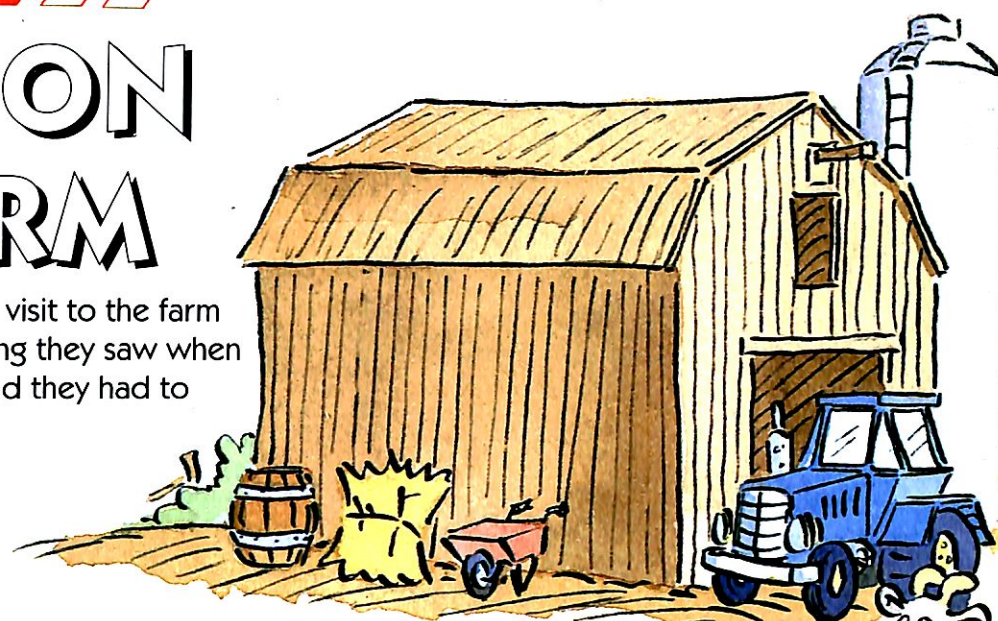
Puzzle it out ???

DOWN ON THE FARM

The Fieldmice decided to pay a visit to the farm near Farthing Wood. The first thing they saw when they arrived was the farm cat and they had to hide. Can you find them?

FRIGHTENED FIELDMICE

Can you see six mice hiding from the cat?



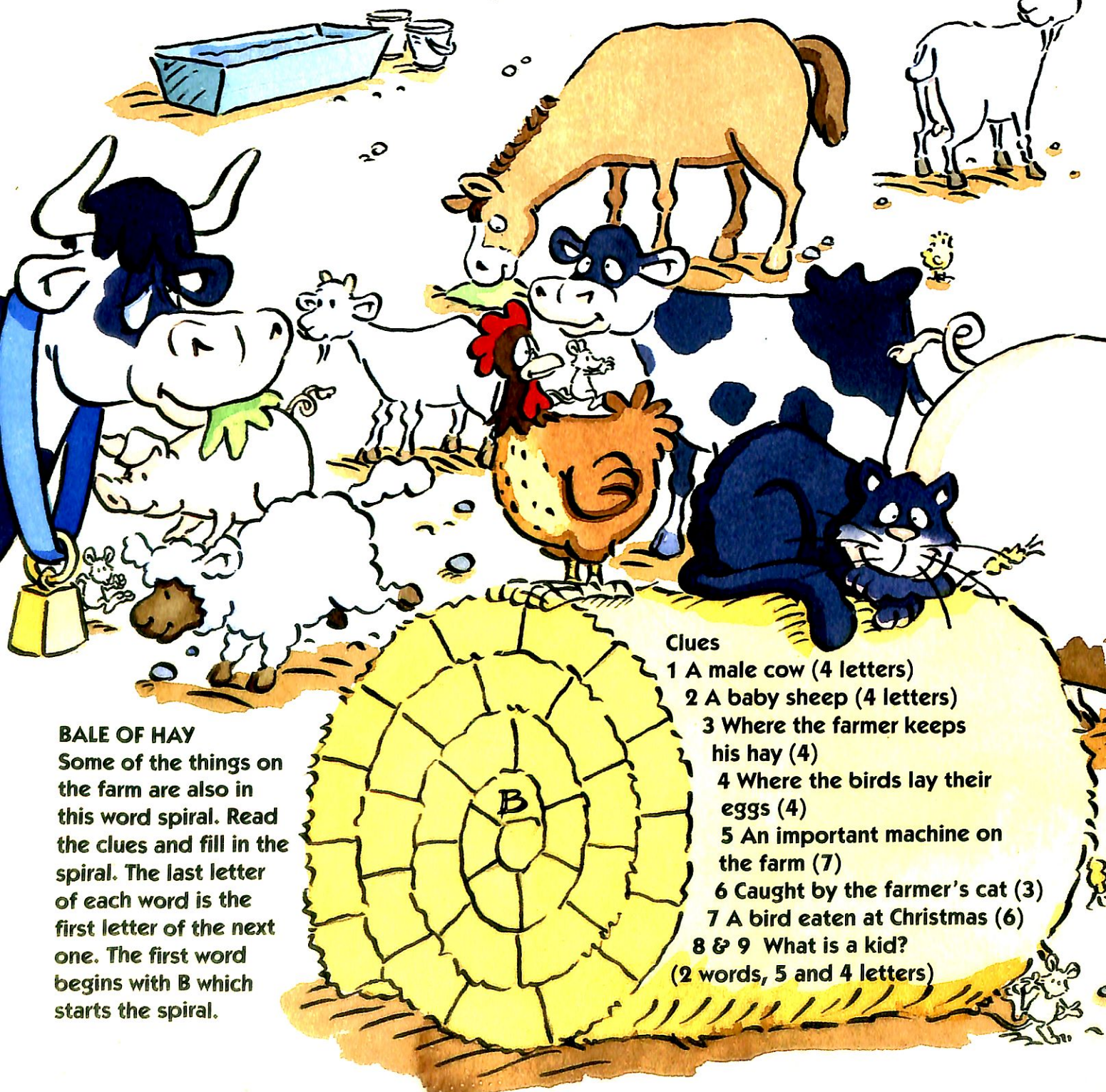
Once the coast was clear, the Fieldmice came out of hiding and crept round the farm, having a good look at everything. As they were so small, it was easy for them to scurry about without being seen. Here are some of the things that they saw.

MUMS AND BABIES

How many pairs of mother animals and their babies can you see?

PUTTING UP FENCES

The farmer wants to keep his bulls apart in the field with four fences. Can you show him where to put the fences so each bull has its own piece of field separate from the others?

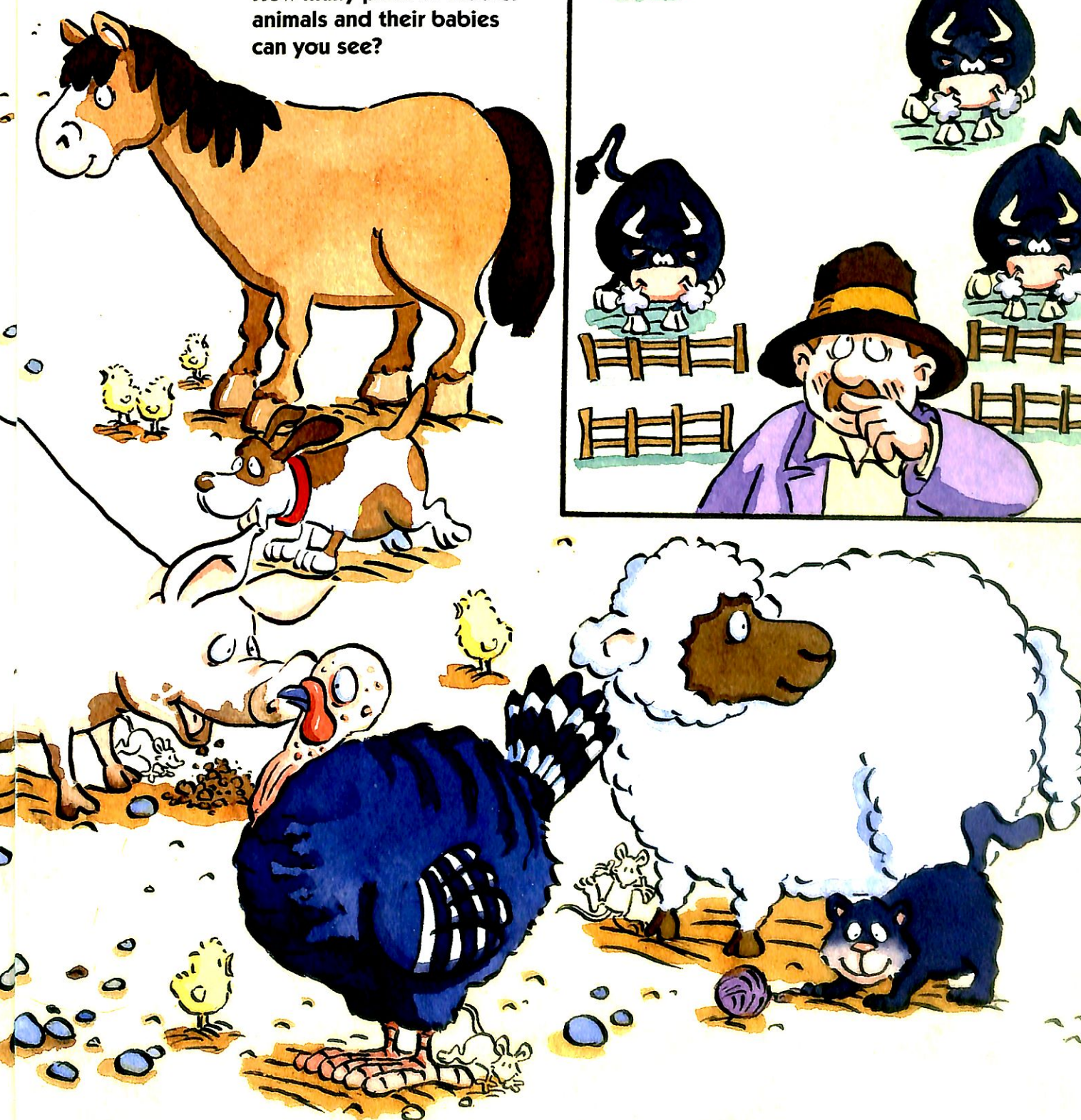


BALE OF HAY

Some of the things on the farm are also in this word spiral. Read the clues and fill in the spiral. The last letter of each word is the first letter of the next one. The first word begins with B which starts the spiral.

Clues

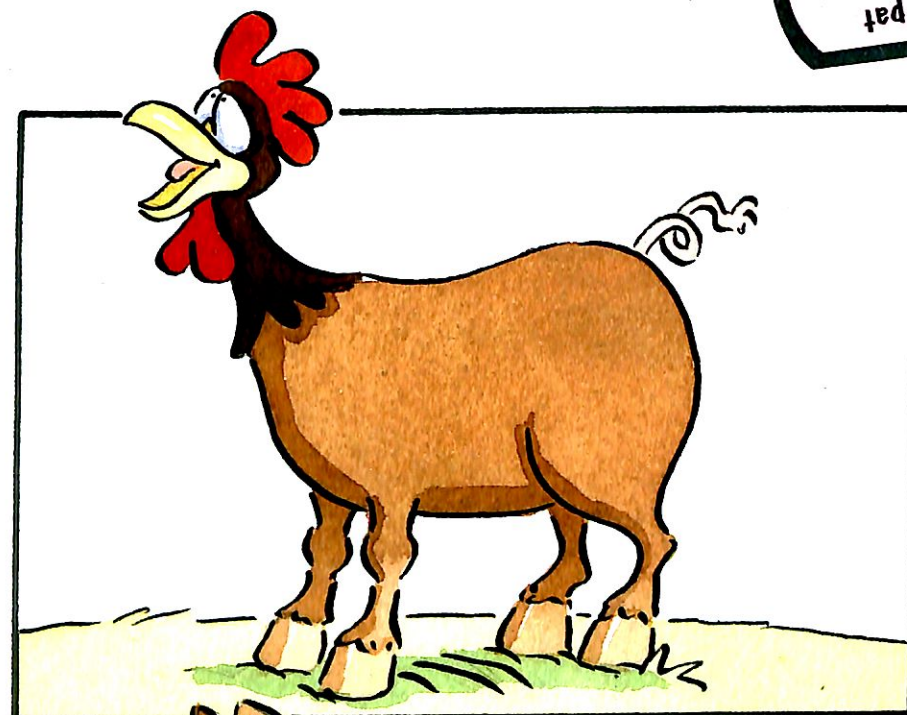
- 1 A male cow (4 letters)
- 2 A baby sheep (4 letters)
- 3 Where the farmer keeps his hay (4)
- 4 Where the birds lay their eggs (4)
- 5 An important machine on the farm (7)
- 6 Caught by the farmer's cat (3)
- 7 A bird eaten at Christmas (6)
- 8 & 9 What is a kid? (2 words, 5 and 4 letters)



Puzzle it out ???

FUNNY FARM ANIMALS

The artist became confused when drawing three farm animals and muddled them up. Can you see which three they are?



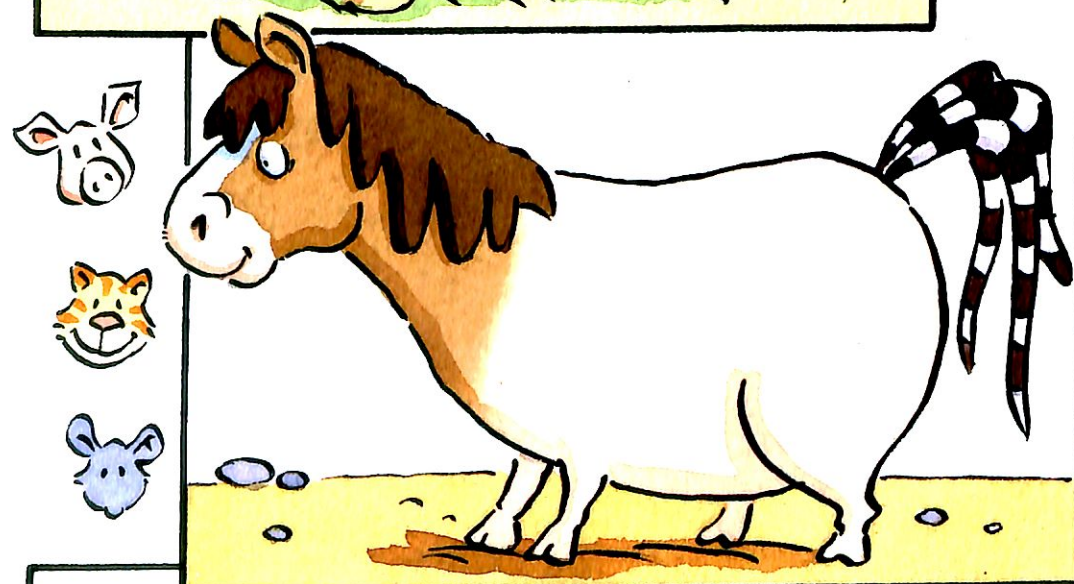
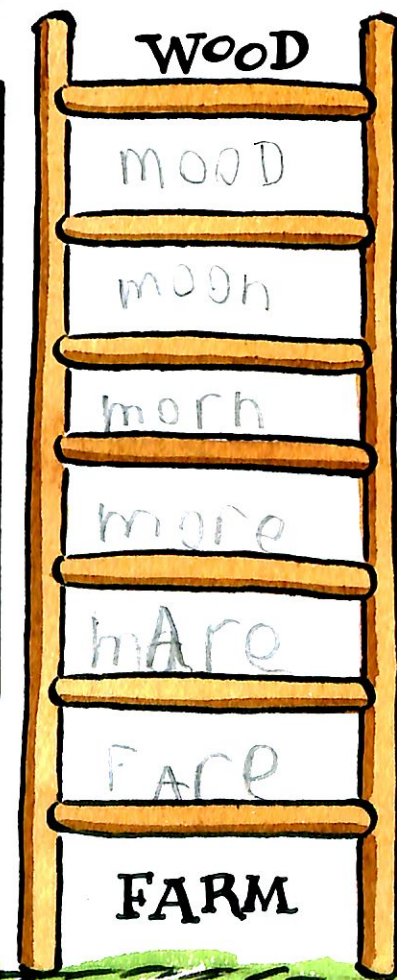
What happens if you walk under a cow? You get a pat on the head.

WORD LADDER

Change WOOD to FARM in this word ladder. Read the clues and fill in the rungs!

Clues

- 1 When you're grumpy, you're in a bad ____.
- 2 Shines bright in the night.
- 3 A word that's short for 'morning'.
- 4 A greater number of things.
- 5 Female horse.
- 6 What you pay if you travel on public transport.

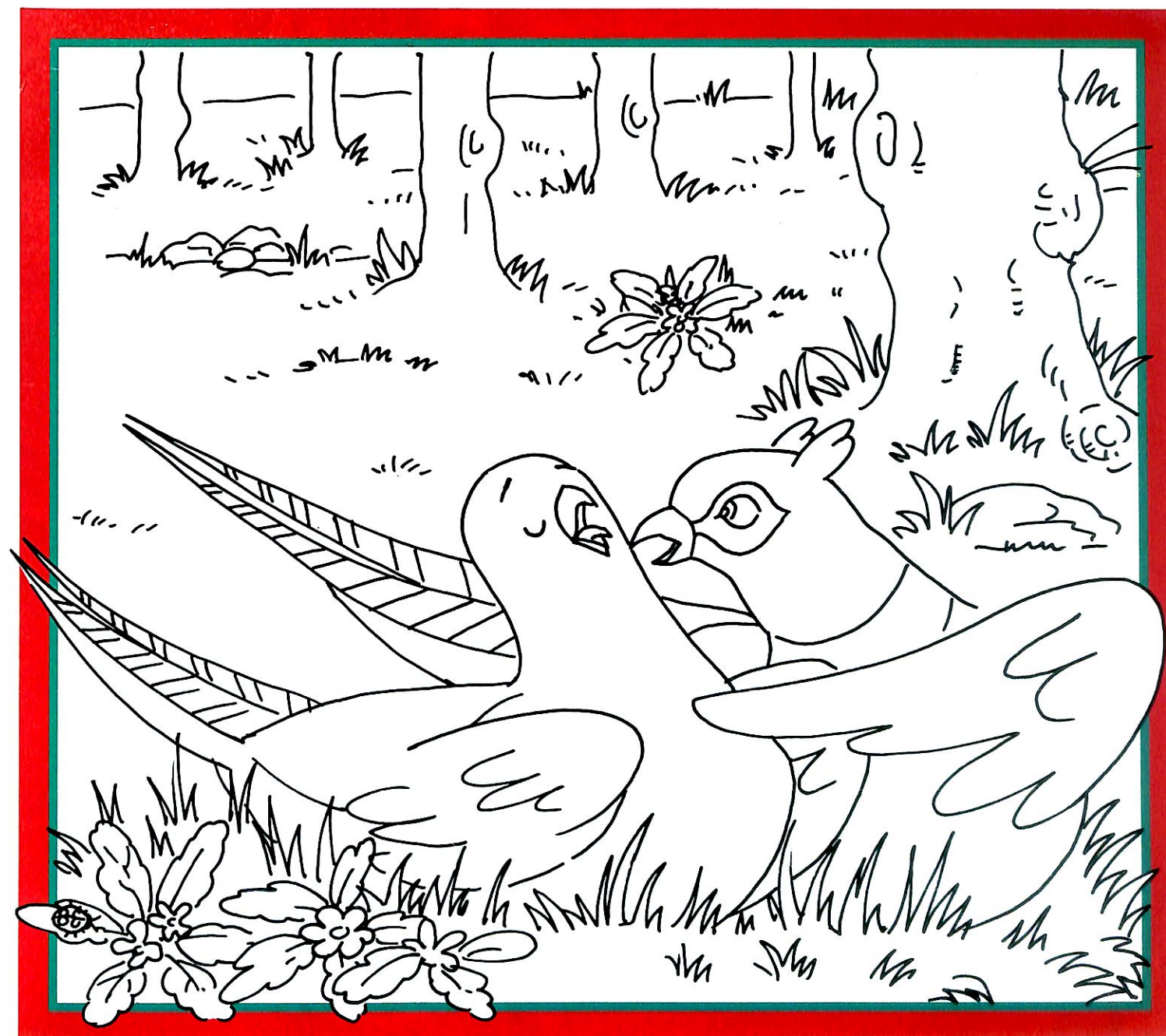


BALE OF HAY 1 Bull 2 Lamb 3 Barn 4 Nest
5 Tractor 6 Rat 7 Turkey 8 Young 9 Goat
MUMS AND BABIES Hen and chicks, pig and
piglets, horse and foal, sheep and lamb,
goat and kid, cat and kittens, cow and calf.
FUNNY FARM ANIMALS Horse, pig, hen.
WORD LADDER 1 Mood 2 Moon 3 Morn
4 More 5 Mare 6 Fare.

ANSWERS
PUTTING UP FENCES

Colour it in

NOW HEAR THIS!



THANK YOU
FOR ALL THE
PICTURES,
POEMS
AND JOKES
YOU'VE SENT IN.

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